

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

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EA-PHABIB

S/S :JPMOFFAT

IO/CMD-WWOODBURY

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R 012322Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ASEAN

SUBJECT:US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 7182; (B) STATE 283832 (1974)

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1. IN LIGHT OF REF A, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU APPROACH

CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE IN KUALA LUMPUR AND REITERATE OUR RECEPTIVITY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO AN ASEAN INITIATIVE FOR A CONSULTATIVE MEETING ALONG LINES REF B, (EXCEPT PARA 4 OF REF B. IN LIGHT OF EVENTS, IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO HAVE ANY NON-MEMBER OBSERVERS.) YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT THIS IS SIMPLY REITERATION OF EARLIER APPROACH TO ASEAN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION BY RTG THAT PROPER CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS IS THROUGH CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE IN KUALA LUMPUR.

2. RTG NOTE IS FIRST DIRECT RESPONSE TO PROPOSED US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS. EARLIER INDIRECT REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN TWO REASONS FOR DELAY OF ASEAN RESPONSE: 1) INDONESIAN DISPLEASURE WITH OPEC EXCLUSION UNDER GSP PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT; 2) PHILIPPINE HESITATION WHILE SORTING OUT THEIR POSITION

ON PENDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. IF THESE QUESTIONS ARE RAISED WITH YOU, YOU CAN INDICATE THAT PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICLY STATED ADMINISTRATION'S REGRET OVER OPEC PROVISION OF TRADE ACT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING INDONESIA, THAT AN AMENDMENT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE BY CONGRESSMAN GREEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO EXTEND GSP TO THOSE OPEC MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT EMBARGOED US IN THE PAST, AND THAT WE CONSIDER THE GREEN AMENDMENT TO BE A STEP FORWARD AND THEREFORE SUPPORT IT ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT CONGRESS GRANT THE PRESIDENT BROADER LATITUDE WITH RESPECT TO OPEC COUNTRIES. RE THE PHILIPPINE QUESTION, YOU MAY EXPLAIN THAT US/ASEAN TALKS VIEWED BY US AS PURELY CONSULTATIVE AND NOT DESIGNED TO REPLACE IN ANY WAY OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS POSSIBILITY THAT SOME ASEAN GOVERNMENTS MAY HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT DISPLAYING ASEAN CLOSENESS TO U.S. BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL IMPACT ON ASEAN'S NON-ALIGNED IMAGE. RECENT COMMUNIST VICTORIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN INDOCHINA MAY WELL HAVE INCREASED THESE SENSITIVITIES AND WE SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE PRESSING ASEAN FOR CONSULTATIONS IF IT DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE THEM AT THIS TIME. ON OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE U.S. FOLLOW-UP MAY BE USEFUL SIGNAL IN POST-VIETNAM CLIMATE THAT WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN NON-COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA NATIONS AND ARE ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THEM IN CHANNELS THEY FIND USEFUL AND UNEMBAR-

RASSING. FURTHERMORE, ON-GOING MTN NEGOTIATIONS,
RISING NUMBER OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES IN REGION AND
PREPARATIONS FOR SPECIAL SESSION UNGA, WOULD MAKE
CONSULTATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE TIMELY FROM OUR POINT
OF VIEW. WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE WHY RTG NOTIFIED US
OF ASEAN SECRETARIES GENERAL DECISION OR SIGNIFICANCE
OF RECOMMENDED APPROACH WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED
EITHER AS SOME SHOW OF ASEAN INTEREST OR DESIRE TO
PUT US OFF POLITELY BY INSISTING ON FORMAL APPROACH.
YOUR EVALUATION OF REAL ASEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD PROPOSAL
AT THIS TIME, BASED ON REACTION TO YOUR APPROACH WOULD
ACCORDINGLY BE USEFUL. KISSINGER

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